

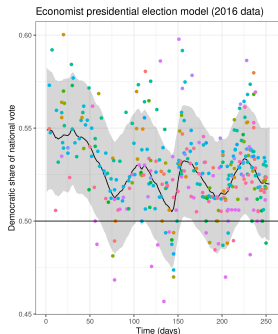
# Approximate data deletion and replication with the Bayesian influence function

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Ryan Giordano (rgiordano@berkeley.edu, UC Berkeley), Tamara Broderick (MIT)

**MIT Robustness and Influence Functions Workshop**

# Economist 2016 Election Model [Gelman and Heidemanns, 2020]



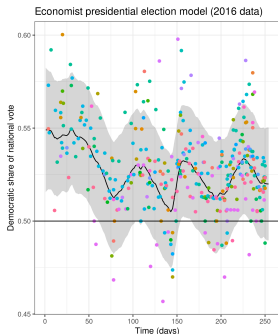
A time series model to predict the 2016 US presidential election outcome from polling data.

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- $\theta =$  Lots of random effects (day, pollster, etc.)
- $f(\theta) =$  Democratic % of vote on election day

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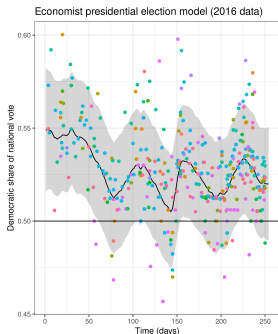
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- The model is (surely) misspecified
- The posterior expectation marginalizes over many nuisance parameters
- We are interested re-sampling for *this* election, not a hypothetical future election

**Idea:** Re-fit with bootstrap samples of data [Huggins and Miller, 2023]

**Problem:** Each MCMC run takes about 10 hours (Stan, six cores).

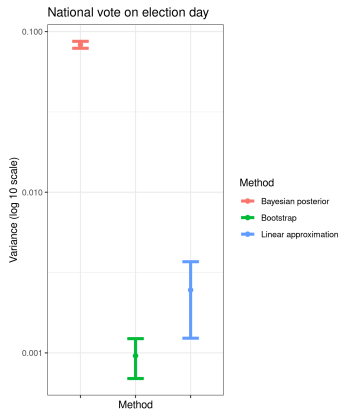
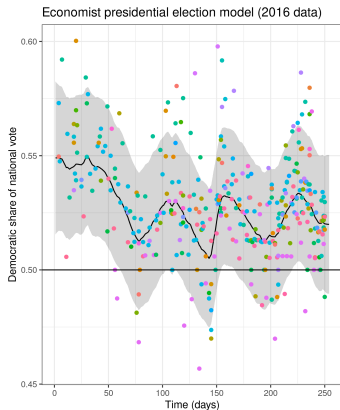
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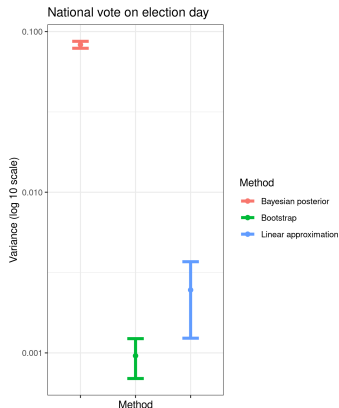
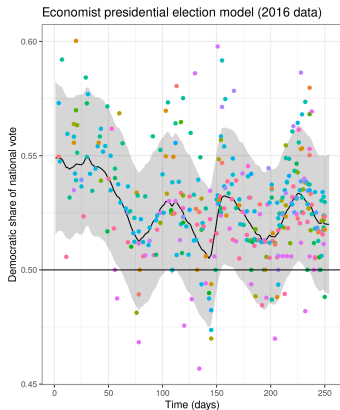


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Compute time for 100 bootstraps: 51 days

Compute time for the linear approximation: Seconds  
(But note the approximation has some error)

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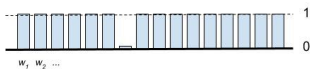
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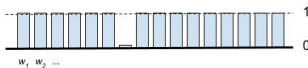
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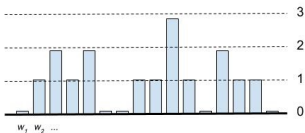
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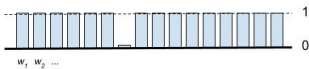
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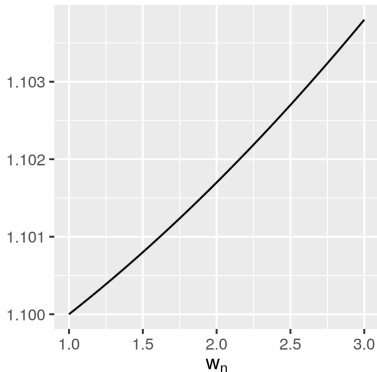
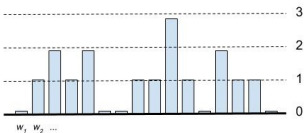
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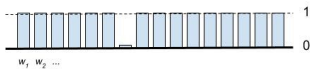
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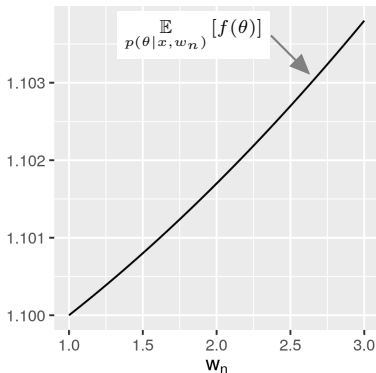
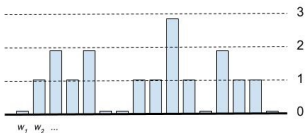
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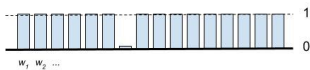
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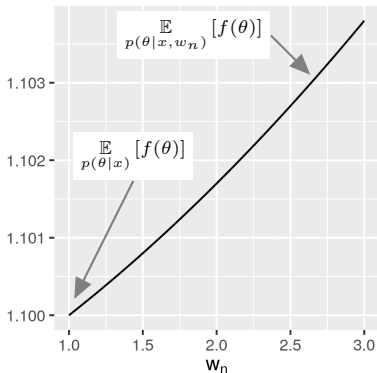
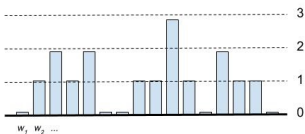
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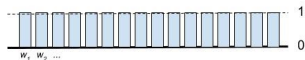


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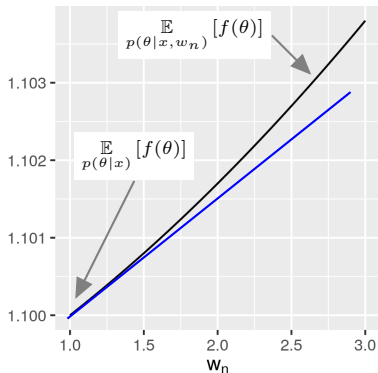
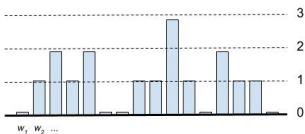
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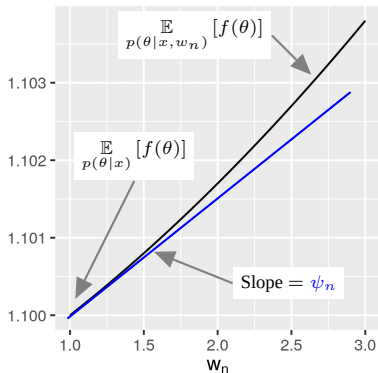
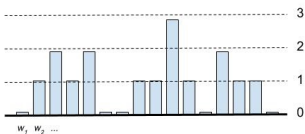
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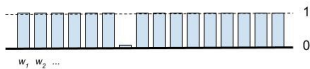
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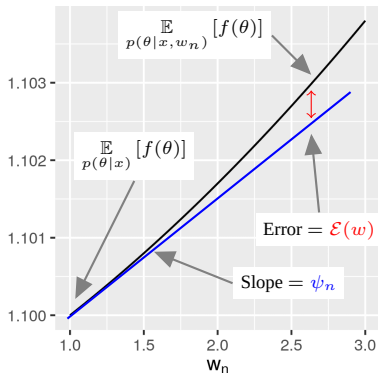
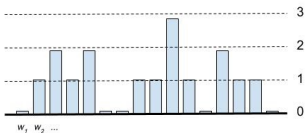
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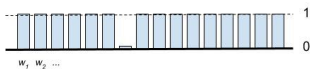
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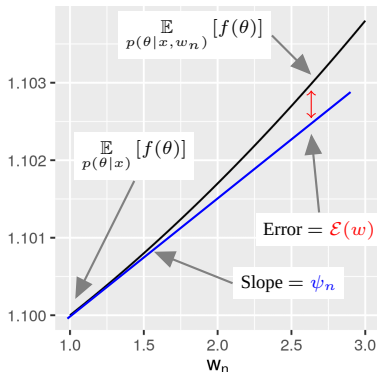
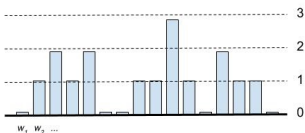
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The re-scaled slope  $N\psi_n$  is known as the “influence function” at data point  $x_n$ .

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How can we use the approximation?

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**Other examples:** Cross validation, conformal inference, outlier identification, etc.

## Expressions for the slope and error

How to compute the slopes  $\psi_n$ ? How can we analyze the error  $\mathcal{E}(w)$ ?

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Furthermore, by the mean value theorem, for some  $\tilde{w}$ ,

$$\mathcal{E}(w) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{n'=1}^N \mathcal{E}_{nn'}(w) (w_n - 1)(w_{n'} - 1) \quad \text{where}$$
$$\mathcal{E}_{nn'}(w) := \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|X,\tilde{w})} [\bar{f}(\theta) \bar{\ell}_n(\theta) \bar{\ell}_{n'}(\theta)]}_{\substack{\text{Cannot compute directly!} \\ \text{(we don't know the intermediate value theorem's } \tilde{w} \text{).} \\ \text{But we can analyze it.}}}$$

Here, an overbar denotes “posterior–mean zero.” For example,  $\bar{f}(\theta) := f(\theta) - \mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|X)} [f(\theta)]$ .



How good is the linear approximation (IJ covariance) as an approximation of the limiting variance of  $\sqrt{N} \mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|X)} [f(\theta)]$ ?

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## Theorem 4 of Giordano and Broderick [2023] (paraphrase & conjecture):

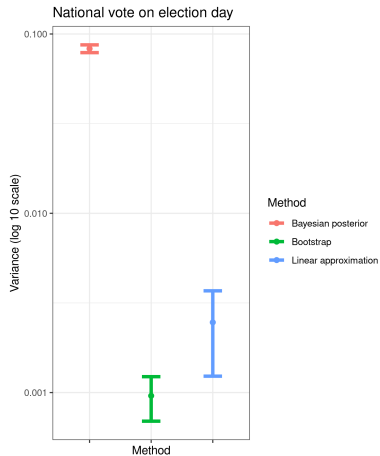
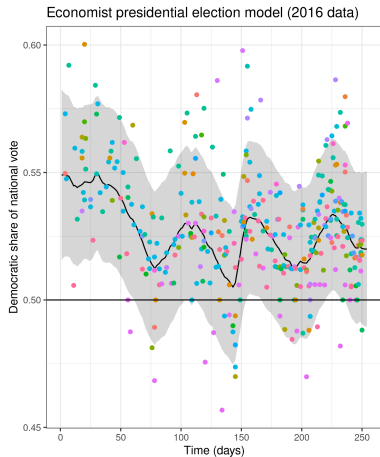
In a flexible class of high–dimensional exponential family models, even when  $p(f(\theta)|X)$  obeys a BVM marginally (!),

- $\sqrt{N}\mathcal{E}(w)$  does not converge to zero (so the IJ covariance is inconsistent), but...
- $\sqrt{N}\mathcal{E}(w) = \tilde{O}_p(1)$ , and proportional to the nuisance parameters’ posterior covariance

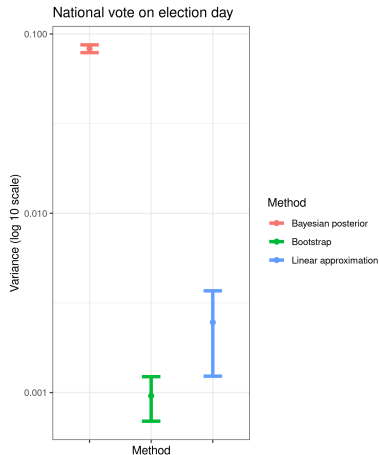
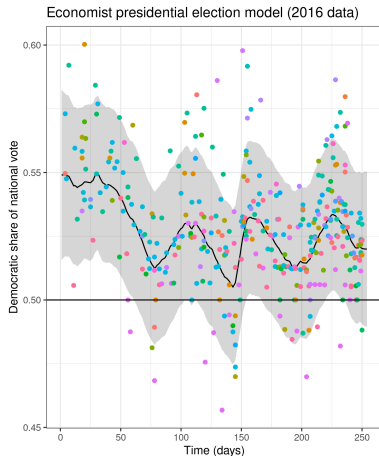
- Proofs use the von Mises expansion to accomodate high–dimensional  $\theta$  [von Mises, 1947].

⇒ **Proofs (and experiments) strongly suggest the bootstrap is inconsistent as well.**

# Observations and consequences



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**Preprint:** Giordano and Broderick [2023] (arXiv:2305.06466)

- Detailed proofs
- Simple analytical examples
- Simulated and real-world experiments

- A. Gelman and M. Heidemanns. The Economist: Forecasting the US elections., 2020. URL <https://projects.economist.com/us-2020-forecast/president>. Data and model accessed Oct., 2020.
- R. Giordano and T. Broderick. The Bayesian infinitesimal jackknife for variance. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2305.06466*, 2023.
- J. Huggins and J. Miller. Reproducible model selection using bagged posteriors. *Bayesian Analysis*, 18(1):79–104, 2023.
- R. von Mises. On the asymptotic distribution of differentiable statistical functions. *The Annals of Mathematical Statistics*, 18(3):309–348, 1947.

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**Cross validation.** Let  $w_{(-n)}$  leave out point  $n$ , and loss  $f(\theta) = -\ell(x_n|\theta)$ .

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**Influential subsets: Approximate maximum influence perturbation (AMIP).**

Let  $W_{(-K)}$  denote weights leaving out  $K$  points.

$$\max_{w \in W_{(-K)}} \left( \mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|x, w)} [f(\theta)] - \mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|x)} [f(\theta)] \right) \approx - \sum_{n=1}^K \psi_{(n)}.$$

## Example: A negative binomial model

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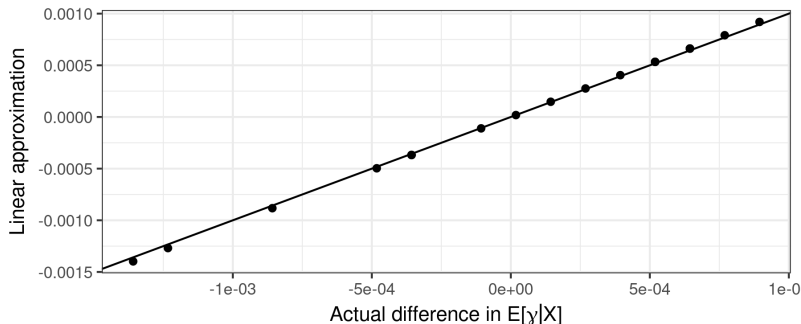
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Negative Binomial model  
leaving out single datapoints with  $N = 800$



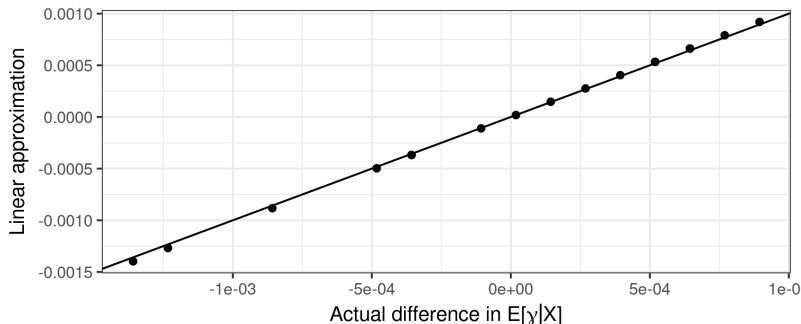
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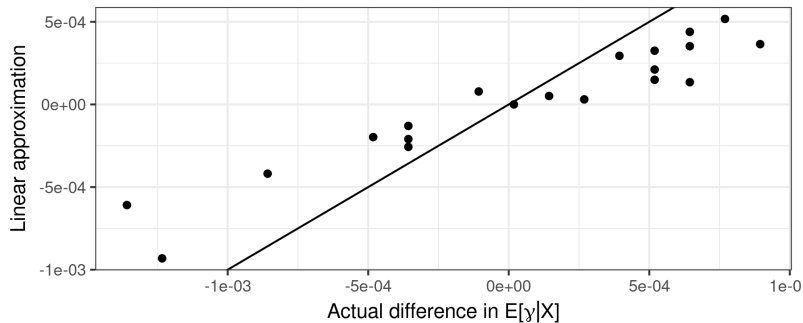
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**Problem:** Most computationally hard Bayesian problems don't concentrate.

Example: **Poisson model with random effects (REs)  $\lambda$  and fixed effect  $\gamma$ .**

Poisson random effect model  
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## A contradiction?

**Negative binomial observations.**

**Asymptotically linear in  $w$ .**

**Poisson observations with random effects.**

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With a constant regressor, Gamma REs, and one RE per observation,  
these are the same model, with the same  $p(\gamma|X)$ .

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**Asymptotically linear in  $w$ .**

$$\log p(X|\gamma, w^m) = \sum_{n=1}^N w_n^m \log p(x_n|\gamma)$$

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**Trick question!** We weight a log likelihood contribution, not a datapoint.

**The two weightings are not equivalent in general.**

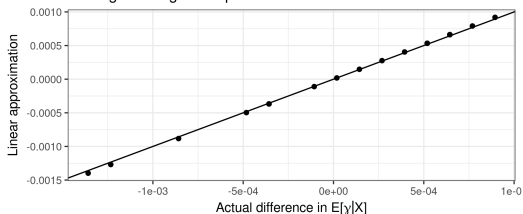
# Experimental results

Our results were actually computed on **identical datasets** with  $G = N$  and  $g_n = n$ .

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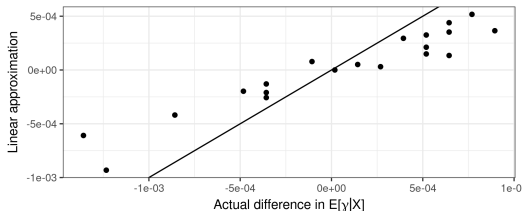
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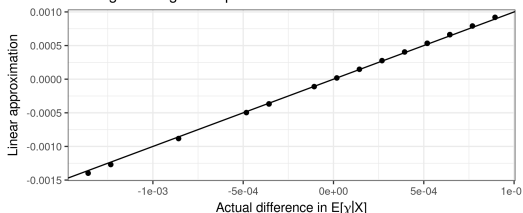
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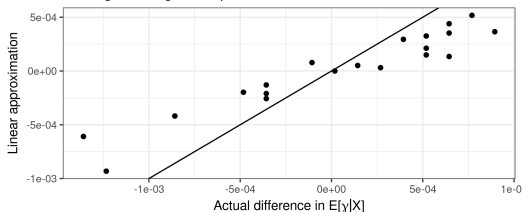
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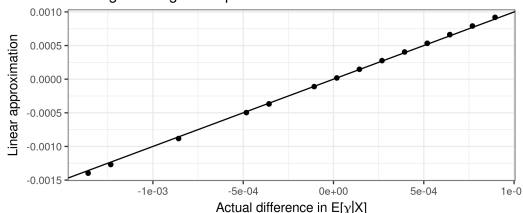
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May still be useful when  $p(\lambda | X)$  is *somewhat* concentrated.

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